FEB. 21-23, 2007

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **February 21 and 22**, and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on **February 23**. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at these meetings.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

President's Report

The President reported to Provincial Executive on his activities since the November meeting. He was part of presentations to the Teacher Allocation Commission, the ISSP/Pathways Commission and the Provincial Pre-Budget Consultations. He brought greetings to the meeting of the Eastern Division of the Retired Teachers' Association, the Directors of Education Winter Conference, attended the Beginning Teachers' Conference in Corner Brook as well as various retirement dinners, and presented the Barnes Award and the Prime Minister's Award to the winning teachers. He attended numerous other meetings and events at the local, provincial and national levels in his capacity as President and continued his school visitations throughout the province. He also took part in numerous media interviews on the NLTA *Hands Up For Our Children's Education* campaign and other educational issues.

Business from Standing Committees

Table Officers

- The theme for the NLTA 2007 BGM will be *Hands Up for Education*.
- The composition of BGM 2007 committees and the draft agenda for BGM 2007 were approved as presented.
- The delegation to the 2007 CTF AGM will be comprised of President Kevin Foley, Vice-President (and President-elect) Sean Noah, Table Officer (and Vice-President elect) Lily Cole, Table Officer Dana Burridge, and Executive Director Edward Hancock.
- The new NLTA award established to recognize outstanding contributions and/or support for education by groups or individuals outside the K-12 school system will be named "The Patricia Cowan Award for Support and Promotion of Education".
- The next meeting of Table Officers is scheduled for June 7 unless a special pre-BGM meeting is required, at the call of the chair.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Membership Benefits and Services Committee

- The NLTA will contact other provincial teacher organizations and CTF to call for increased lobbying efforts to put pressure on the federal government to make the amendments to the Income Tax Act and Regulations necessary to allow teachers to receive some form of tax relief for the expense of home computers and related expenses.
- The NLTA will conduct a survey of all teachers to determine if the membership wants to see the three-week pay gap eliminated and the preferred method for achieving this. The survey document will fully explain the situation and clearly outline the available options for addressing it, including the impact on teacher pay periods, net pay, etc.
- The NLTA will examine hiring practices in other educational jurisdictions with a view to possibly amending the current Association hiring policy for teachers in substitute and replacement roles and the movement of substitute and replacement teachers into permanent positions.
- Seven pre-retirement seminars will be held in accordance with NLTA policy during the fall of 2007 in the following locations: Corner Brook, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor, Stephenville, and three in St. John's. The dates and sites will be determined by the Benefits and Economic Services Division subject to hotel and presenter availability. Consideration will be given to combining seminars depending on registration numbers.
- Frank Crews of GranForLine Branch and Douglas Parsons of Bay Roberts Branch will be the recipients of the Bancroft Award for 2007.
- S. Nicole Burt of Nutak Labradorimi Branch will be the recipient of the Special Recognition Award for 2007.
- Winston Carter of Hamilton Sound Branch will be the recipient of the Allan Bishop Award for 2007.

For further information contact Edward Moore, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee or Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Equity Issues in Education

- Child care/dependent expenses will be paid by the Association for children up to age 16 or for other dependents over the age of 16 who are physically or mentally infirm, who reside in the member's home, are normally dependent on the member or for whom the member is responsible for providing care in the member's absence while on NLTA business.

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- The following will be the women observers to BGM 2007: Debra Moores, Crystal Boyes, Nicole Short, Carol Budgell and Penney Ann Martin-Wells. In the event that one or more of these candidates cannot attend, the following will be the alternates: Jennie Morency-Letto, Stephanie Snow and Jean Elliott.

For further information contact Paul Pinsent, Chair, Equity Issues Committee or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Professional Issues Committee

- Chris Cooper of the Newfoundland and Labrador Counsellors' and Psychologists' Association will be the recipient of the Barnes Award for 2007.

For further information contact Lily Cole, Chair, Professional Issues Committee or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Finance and Property Committee

- The Negotiating Team has been directed to attempt to eliminate the three-week gap that occurs every six or seven years with emphasis being placed on the fact that government saves money by paying teachers over 12 months instead of 10.
- The Association's audited financial statements for 2005-06 were adopted as presented.

For further information contact Dean Ingram, Chair, Finance and Property Committee or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

Ad Hoc Committee on SIC Restructuring

- The NLTA will investigate the purchase of conference planning software that can be used by SICs, Joint Council, BGM, etc.

For further information contact Bill Chaisson, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on SIC Restructuring or George Tucker, Professional Development Division.

Other Business

- Provincial Executive will defer resumption of negotiations until such time as government has responded to the Teacher Allocation and ISSP/Pathways Reviews, such decision to be reviewed following the release of the Provincial Budget.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director and Chief Negotiator.
- The Report on Resolutions from the 2005 BGM was accepted for presentation to the 2007 BGM.
- The names of teachers who have passed away since BGM 2005 will be read aloud at BGM 2007.
- The recommendations on resolutions to the 2007 BGM were accepted, as amended, for presentation at BGM.

  For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.
- The NLTA will redistribute the memo reminding teachers of Article 29.07 and their involvement in committees.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

JOINT COUNCIL

Association Priorities

A detailed review of the Association priorities for 2006-07 was presented to Joint Council. Various NLTA administrative staff updated Provincial Executive and Branch Presidents on elements of the priorities including action updates and progress to date. The priorities are: quality of teachers' work life/contract negotiations; membership awareness; and professionalism/accountability.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Occupational Health and Safety

A presentation on various aspects of occupational health and safety was made to Joint Council by a panel of presenters. Presenting on the safety of workers were: Kim Dunphy, Assistant Deputy Minister, Occupational Health and Safety; Randell Earle, lawyer, O'Dea Earle; and Sean Colford, teacher, Holy Heart of Mary High School. Three different perspectives on occupational health and safety were discussed during this presentation and members had the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

For further information contact Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Presentation on Public Policy in Education

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Dr. Gerald Galway, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, Memorial University titled *Public Policy in Education: Risky Business*. Dr. Galway's presentation reported on a recent study that was undertaken to help define and understand the key forms of evidence that inform the educational decisions of policy makers. The presentation discussed the findings which suggest that educational decision making is integrally linked to the management of political risk.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

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Presentation re Study on School Violence

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Dr. Lynda Younghusband on her study on the incidence of school-related violence or abuse directed toward teachers. For the purpose of her survey, violence is defined as any threatened, attempted or actual harm to a person or persons. Dr. Younghusband released some of the preliminary findings of her research to date and members of Joint Council had the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Proposed NLTA Budgets for 2007-09

A presentation on the proposed NLTA budgets for 2007-09 was made to Joint Council by Dean Ingram, Chair of the Finance and Property Committee. The presentation provided information on revenues received from various sources, expenses and capital expenditures, and a breakdown of budget lines within the Association's budget.

For further information contact Dean Ingram, Chair, Finance and Property Committee or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

Preparing Delegates for BGM 2007

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Edward Hancock, Executive Director of the NLTA on preparing delegates for BGM 2007. Branch Presidents were advised that they should arrange a delegate meeting after convention kits are received to discuss and review any specific items and take positions. Delegates should be familiar with all BGM business, Convention procedures, presentation of resolutions and Convention expenses.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and/or Joint Council for follow up or future direction: advisory motions from November 2006 Joint Council meeting; Reciprocal Pensions Agreement; ads and articles in *The Bulletin*; itinerant teachers; school development plans; time frame for criteria applications; CDLI; and teacher inservice.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **June 8-9** in St. John's. Executive will also meet for its pre-BGM meeting on **Tuesday, April 10.**

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.